

Message Text

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ACTION PC-15

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 RSR-01 RSC-01 /050 W
----- 065286

R 131930 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9417

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 1760

E. O. 11652

VR NA

TAGS: OTRA, PINS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER IN GUATEMALA

1. OVER PAST FEW DAYS REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO U. S. FIRMS (ATAC AND TECHNODYNE) HAVE BEEN MAKING SOUNDINGS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND LOCAL INSTITUTIONS WITH REGARD TO PREPARATION OF BIDS ON PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER WHICH THEY WOULD PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH IN GUATEMALA. UNTIL APRIL 11 CONTACTS THESE REPRESENTATIVES WITH EMBASSY HAD BEEN ON CASUAL BASIS AND DETAILS OF PLAN WERE NOT DISCUSSED WITH EMBASSY PERSONNEL. ON APRIL 11 MR. THOMAS M. COOKE OF ATAC CALLED AT EMBASSY, OUTLINED PLAN TO ESTABLISH TRAINING CENTER AT BARCENA AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL, AND ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY FACTORS HE SHOULD BE AWARE OF THAT MIGHT ADVERSELY EFFECT SUCH A PROJECT.

2. WE TOLD MR. COOKE THAT BECAUSE OF SECURITY SITUATION WE DID NOT BELIEVE IT ADVISABLE TO SET UP SUCH A CENTER, WHICH WOULD CONCENTRATE SIXTY OR MORE AMERICANS IN ONE PLACE, FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME, IN GUATEMALA. MR. COOKE APPEARED TO ACCEPT OUR REASONING AND SAID HE WOULD INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

3. IF THERE ARE OTHER COMPANIES PLANNING TO INVESTIGATE SITES FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE CORPS TRAINING CENTER, EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF WORD COULD BE GOTTEN TO THEM ON REASONS FOR UNDESIRABILITY OF GUATEMALA FOR THIS
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PURPOSE. IN ANY EVENT, REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY COMPANIES
PLANNING TO VISIT GUATEMALA WITH REGARD THIS PROJECT
SHOULD BE ASKED TO CONTACT EMBASSY BEFORE GETTING INVOLVED
WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS.

DECONTROL APRIL 1976.
BOWDLER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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